

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
INITIAL POLLUTION REPORT**

DATE: 12AUG03

SUBJECT: RDOC Gasoline Discharge
3450 Jefferson Road
Athens, Clarke County, Georgia 30677

FROM: Rick Jardine PE, OSC
USEPA Region 4

TO: S. Hitchcock, EPA
Region 4, RRC
USCG
GA EPD

I. BACKGROUND

FPN#	E03416
SITE ID#	Z4FM
PROJECT CEILING:	\$125,000
LEAD AGENCY:	EPA, Region 4, ERRB 61 Forsyth Street, SW Atlanta, Georgia 30303
NPL:	No
FUNDING:	OPA
LEAD OSC:	Ben Franco

II SITUATION

Date of Notification:	10AUG03
Date Action Started:	10AUG03
Pollutant:	Gasoline
Quantity Discharged:	Approximately 6000 gallons.
Source Identification:	Tank Farm.

III ACTIONS TAKEN

At approximately 04:00 on Sunday 10AUG03, emulsified gasoline was discovered draining from a tank farm adjacent to the Hopewell Tire and Auto facility in Athens, GA. GA EPD and EPA each dispatched On-Scene Coordinators to assess the extent of the discharge and ensure appropriate response. The oil was observed to have traveled approximately three miles along Hunnicutt Creek into the Oconee river. The local Fire Department constructed

underflow dams and provided safety support in anticipation of a fire. The responsible party, RDOC, Inc, hired response contractor HEPACO to contain and recover the gasoline. HEPACO installed hard boom in the River. They recovered the oil with several vac trucks and provided storage in frac tanks. Initial response actions continued 24 hours a day. EPA OSCs Rosen and Williamson assisted OSC Franco.

IV FUTURE ACTIONS

OSC Franco will continue to oversight the response effort, recover oil, excavate saturated soil, and provide for disposal of oil-saturated wastes.

V ESTIMATED COSTS

EPA	\$1,000
START	\$6,000

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
FINAL POLLUTION REPORT**

DATE: 01DEC03

SUBJECT: RDOC Gasoline Discharge
3450 Jefferson Road
Athens, Clarke County, Georgia 30677

FROM: Benjamin Franco, OSC
USEPA Region 4

TO: S. Hitchcock, EPA
Region 4, RRC
USCG
GA EPD

I. BACKGROUND

FPN#	E03416
SITE ID#	Z4FM
PROJECT CEILING:	\$125,000
LEAD AGENCY:	EPA, Region 4, ERRB 61 Forsyth Street, SW Atlanta, Georgia 30303
NPL:	No
FUNDING:	OPA
LEAD OSC:	Ben Franco

II SITUATION

Date of Notification:	10AUG03
Date Action Started:	10AUG03
Pollutant:	Gasoline
Quantity Discharged:	Approximately 6000 gallons.
Source Identification:	Tank Farm.

III ACTIONS TAKEN

OSC Franco visited the RDOC, Inc site and investigated the source and route of the spill. The spill originated at a facility behind the Hopewell Auto and Tire business that is located at 3500 Jefferson Rd, Athens, GA. A fuel smell was discovered around 0300 on 10AUG03 by a nearby resident of Hunnicutt Creek several miles downstream. According to on scene police investigators, someone opened the valves of four above storage tanks that contained emulsified gasoline. A former employee is considered the

main suspect. The tanks' capacities were of 6,000 gallons and three others of 3,000 gallons each. The tanks showed signs of corrosion, had no secondary containment, did not have locks and were not in a secured location. The facility did not have an SPCC plan. The tanks were being used by the responsible party to store waste gasoline that came out of underground storage tanks from his retail gasoline business. It also suspected that there may have been diesel and lube oil in the mix. The owner did not have any records.

The tanks were approximately 200 feet from Hunnicutt Creek, and the spill traveled more than 3 miles into the Middle Oconee River. It is estimated that more than 6,000 gallons were spilled and maybe 3,000 to 4,000 gallons reached the creek. It is estimated that 500 gallons entered the Middle Oconee River. A sheen was detected more than 10 miles down river. The area where the creek empties into the river is surrounded by Burton Park and is used for recreation. The Middle Oconee River is a tributary of the Oconee River and is a source of water for the Athens-Clarke County Water District. In fact one, one of the water intakes for the Athens-Clarke County Water District is across where the creek enters the river. Also, there is fishing and recreational boating on the river.

Environmental Impact

There was evidence of small fish and snakes that were killed by the gasoline in Hunnicutt Creek. Because of this, GAEPD collected fish samples in order to determine cause of death. Vegetation along the banks was distressed. A sheen was observed along the Middle Oconee River, but a fish kill was not observed. The Athens-Clarke County Fire Department instituted voluntary evacuations in a small apartment complex on the banks of the creek. EPA took air monitoring readings at that location and found no harmful levels.

Response Actions

As explained in the initial POLREP, the Athens-Clarke County Fire Department constructed two underflow dams. One was located at the intersection of Mitchell Bridge Road and Westchester Drive, and the other at a bridge crossing at Janice Drive. RDOC hired HEPACO as the environmental contractor, and they mobilized equipment and personnel. HEPACO mobilized vac trucks, frac tanks, roll off boxes, pumps, skirt booms, absorbent booms and personnel to the area. HEPACO used the vac trucks to remove the material from several areas along the creek. Personnel used air blowers to push the material down to the collection areas. A river skirt boom and absorbent booms were deployed in several areas of the creek. Personnel were using Level C personal protective equipment and air monitoring was conducted by HEPACO and EPA. Because Hunnicutt Creek is surrounded by residential areas and a school, EPA conducted air monitoring for explosive levels and gasoline vapors near the banks and in the school.

HEPACO's worked a 24 hour schedule from August 10th to the 12th. After this period, the situation no longer was considered an emergency and they demobed most of the personnel and equipment. For several weeks after the 12th, HEPACO removed booms

from the creek and waited for the responsible party to decontaminated frac tanks that were used for holding oil/water mix.

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division ordered RDOC, Inc to excavate contaminated soil from the initial spill site and fined the company. The soil was sent to an off-site facility for disposal and the State oversaw this action.

- B. **Use of Innovative Technologies or Authorities:** None
- C. **Community Involvement:** There was great interest from the local press and a local environmental group.
- D. **Unusual Circumstances:** During the response, the OSC found out that RDOC, Inc. did not have sufficient insurance and that HEPACO was not going to be paid in full. The OSC could not switch environmental contractor in the middle of the response, and continued using HEPACO. The OSC told HEPACO that they will need to submit a claim to the Fund Center. HEPACO has submitted a claim.
- E. **Future Considerations:** None
- F. **Post Removal Site Control:**None

IV. CONTRACTOR INFORMATION AND ESTIMATED COSTS

A. Contractor Information

CONTRACTOR	DO NUMBER	POP START	POP END	DO AMOUNT
START		10AUG03		\$30,000
TOTAL: \$30,000				

B. Estimated Costs

Extramural:

START: \$30,000

Total Estimated Extramural Costs: \$30,000

Intramural:

EPA Direct Costs: \$5,000

EPA Indirect Costs

TOTAL SITE COSTS: \$35,000

These figures should not be used to support or dispute any legal action regarding this removal.

V. DISPOSITION OF WASTES

Waste Stream Number	Waste Code	Description	Approximate Volume/Quantity	Wastestream Handling Method	Disposal Location
1		Petroleum Contact Water	55,000 gallons	Separation of oil from water.	Sikes Oil Athens, GA

VI. ROSTER OF AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS ASSISTING IN REMOVAL

Org./Agency, Address	Primary Contact	Phone Number	Role/Activity
USEPA R4	Benjamin Franco	404-562-8758	OSC
	Carter Williamson	404-562-8742	OSC
	Bob Rosen	404-562-8761	OSC
GAEPD	Jennifer Hicks	404-229-5651	Responder

VII. LESSONS LEARNED: None

V ESTIMATED COSTS

EPA \$5,000

START \$30,000